

barous and divided, conquered, in less than a hundred years, most of what is now China, much of Southwestern and Central Asia, and part of Europe, and established the most extensive empire that the world had yet seen?

One reason was the weakness of some of their opponents. In spite of the support of a few brave and able generals, the Sung Emperors were incompetent and could not give their people strong leadership. Both the Sung and the Chin had suffered from their long and indecisive wars with each other.

In the West the Abbasid Caliphs were a decaying power. The lack of vigor on the part of opponents does not account for it all, however, for some of the Mongols* victims put up a very able resistance. Thorough-going ruthlessness may also in part be responsible for the victories. The Mongols slaughtered almost the entire population of whole cities and provinces. This was not, apparently, simply from the lust of killing but from deliberate policy, perhaps to inspire terror, possibly as a simple but effective means of preventing insurrection. In the later stages of the conquest of China, the Mongols showed more clemency, perhaps because of a tendency to adopt civilized manners or because the attempt to exterminate any large proportion of the Chinese would have aroused such bitter opposition as to have defeated its own ends. Again the chief factor in the Mongol success does not seem to have lain here.

It appears, rather, to have been able leadership. Jenghiz Khan was an excellent tactician and a severe disciplinarian. He chose many of his generals from a comparatively small corps which underwent a most exacting training. He seems also to have been

an excellent judge of men. Moreover, his armies were noted for their mobility and their quick blows. The Mongols owed much to their cavalry: they equipped their horsemen with plenty of mounts and were able to move swiftly and to strike with surprising quickness. Jenghiz Khan and his successors seem to have been eager to take advantage of all the latest technique and machinery in military operations, learning wherever and from whom-ever they could. For example, Moslems and even a German engineer were employed in constructing siege machinery in the beleaguerment of Hsiangyang.

Then, too, the Mongols appear to have shown some skill in